

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03 HA-05 ACDA-12 /090 W  
-----073050 050905Z /20

P R 041602Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 335  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PDEV, PBOR, IS  
SUBJECT: SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY CONTINUES AMID REPORTS  
OF GOI DISCUSSION OF SETTLEMENT ISSUE

REFS: (A) 77 JERUSALEM 2050, (B) 77 TEL AVIV 9930

1. GUSH EMUNIM POLITICAL SECRETARY SHOFAT CONFIRMED TO  
EMBOFF RECENT PRESS REPORTS THAT GUSH SETTLERS HAVE  
MOVED INTO KARNEI SHOMRON, AND WILL "SOON" SETTLE IN  
SHILO AND HARIS ON THE WEST BANK. HE SAID THAT THESE  
SETTLEMENTS WERE BEING ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
THE GUSH-GOI AGREEMENT OF LAST OCTOBER. SINCE THEN,  
ACCORDING TO SHOFAT, THE GUSH AND GOVERNMENT HAVE  
MADE NO PLANS FOR ADDITIONAL SETTLEMENT. WORLD ZIONIST  
ORGANIZATION (WZO) SETTLEMENT DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR-  
GENERAL RAVID ALSO CONFIRMED THAT THE ABOVE SETTLEMENT  
ACTIVITY WAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OCTOBER AGREEMENT.  
HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE JOINT MINISTERIAL-WZO SETTLE-  
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MENT COMMITTEE HAS NOT MET FOR THE PAST TWO MONTHS.

2. MEANWHILE, THERE ARE RECURRING REPORTS IN THE  
PRESS THAT THE CABINET HAS BEEN ENTERTAINING VARIOUS  
PLANS FOR ADDITIONAL SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY. MAARIV  
(HARIF) STATED THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE SPECIAL  
CABINET SESSION ON JANUARY 3 WAS TO DISCUSS SETTLE-

MENT ON THE WEST BANK. HAARITZ (BENZIMAN) CLAIMED THAT THE CABINET DISCUSSED A "THICKENING" OF SETTLEMENT ON THE WEST BANK AND IN THE RAFAH APPROACHES AT THIS AND THE REGULAR JANUARY 1 SESSION. THE JERUSALEM POST (BILLIANT) ALSO REPORTED THAT THE GOI IS PLANNING LARGE-SCALE SETTLEMENT IN THE WEST BANK. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THERE HAVE BEEN SHARP DIFFERENCES OF OPINION WITHIN THE CABINET ON THIS ISSUE BETWEEN SHARON (SUPPORTED BY DAYAN) AND THE DMC MINISTERS. THE LATTER ARE OPPOSED TO ANY NEW SETTLEMENTS AT THIS TIME, AND ARE RELYING ON THE OPTION IN THEIR COALITION AGREEMENT WITH BEGIN TO CALL FOR A DISCUSSION OF SETTLEMENT POLICY IN THE KNESSET FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SECURITY COMMITTEE TO BLOCK AT PRESENT ANY NEW SETTLEMENT PROGRAM.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH PUBLIC ATTENTION HAS BEEN FOCUSED ON ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATIONS, DEVELOPMENT OF EXISTING SETTLEMENTS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES HAS BEEN CONTINUING. HOWEVER, SINCE THE OCTOBER GUSH-GOI CONFRONTATION WHICH LED TO THE AGREEMENT TO PLACE GUSH SETTLERS "TEMPORARILY" IN A NUMBER OF IDF CAMPS, THERE HAVE BEEN NO ANNOUNCED NEW SETTLEMENT PLANS FOR THE COMING YEAR (FOR WHICH FUNDS HAVE ALREADY BEEN APPROPRIATED IN THE BUDGET). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHARON, POSSIBLY SUPPORTED BY DAYAN, IS APPARENTLY PUSHING FOR STRENGTHENING SETTLEMENTS IN ORDER TO CREATE UNREMOVABLE "FACTS" WHICH WILL SERVE AS THE BOTTOM LINE IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE ARABS. NRP MINISTERS, SENSITIVE TO THE PRO-SETTLEMENT MOOD WITHIN THEIR PARTY, ARE PROBABLY BACKING SHARON. THE DMC MINISTERS, ON THE OTHER HAND, ARE HOLDING OUT AGAINST ESTABLISHING NEW SETTLEMENTS. BEGIN'S POSITION ON THIS QUESTION IS STILL AN UNKNOWN. HE IS IN SYMPATHY WITH THE IDEA OF NEW SETTLEMENTS AND PROBABLY LOOKING FOR A WAY OF SHOWING HIS FORMER ALLIES IN THE GUSH AND COMPLETE LAND OF ISRAEL MOVEMENT THAT HE HAS NOT SOLD OUT. HOWEVER, HE MUST ALSO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE EFFECT AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW SETTLEMENTS WOULD HAVE ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH SADAT AND HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US. AS BEST AS ONE CAN TELL, THE OUTLOOK FOR NOW APPEARS TO BE THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF EXISTING SETTLEMENTS AND DELAY IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW ONES, AT LEAST UNTIL THE SMOKE CLEARS FROM THE NEXT PHASE OF ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN TALKS. HOWEVER, THE GOI HAS SURPRISED US BEFORE ON THE SETTLEMENT ISSUE, AND

ONE CANNOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT  
IT COULD HAPPEN AGAIN.  
LEWIS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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